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COUNTRY Eastern Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Wittenberg

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ATTACHMENT 5

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 15 August 1952

REFERENCES

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. During the period from 6 to 11 July 1952, the Arado Kaserne, Dresdener Strasse, Wittenberg (N 52/E 37), quartered about 350 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. All windows were lighted in the evening. About 50 men received instruction, and about 90 men marched from the installation toward the Flak Kaserne on 10 July.

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2. During the period from 6 to 11 July, the Flak Kaserne on Nordendstrasse quartered about 350 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets and included some with tank or motor transport insignia. Two quarters were lighted at dusk. Three trucks stood in the barracks yard. There was no training activity.
3. During the period from 6 to 11 July, the Tauentzien Kaserne on Berliner Strasse quartered about 400 troops with red-bordered black epaulets. One of the buildings was lighted at dusk. Twenty men wearing black-bordered black epaulets marched into the installation, led by an officer with black-bordered black epaulets and another officer with red-bordered black epaulets and tank insignia. Many officers were seen walking from the barracks installation to a villa at 6 Berliner Strasse and vice versa. Source thought it of interest that the villa was guarded by one sentry in air force uniform and one with red-bordered black epaulets. A small amphibious car was parked in front of the house. Three officers wearing black-bordered black epaulets stood nearby. (1)
4. Between 8 and 11 July, source determined that there were three engineer training sites on the Elbe River. The first was at the municipal swimming place where engineer equipment including paddles, pole drivers and planks about 1.50 meters long and 8 to 10 pontoons were stored and guarded by sentries wearing black-bordered black epaulets. Five soldiers carried 3 or 4 meters long iron girders from the swimming place to the pontoons on the river bank. JS-tank truck with eight soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets and amphibious car, which was previously parked in front of the house at 6 Berliner Strasse, were seen near the swimming place. A second training site was about 500 meters east of the bathing installation where 8 to 10 men built lattice type frames from boards. The frames were then towed by a motorboat to the opposite bank of the river where eight men put planking on them and then loaded them with stones. About 12 officers and 300 men marched to this training site from the bathing establishment, and were given instruction on the ramming of poles and the construction of the lattice type frames. A third training place was

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about 250 meters south of the arm of the Elbe River, Die Mendel, where 10 tents were pitched and about 200 men wearing black-bordered black epaulets were seen. Some of the soldiers carried iron girders to about 20 pontoons on the bank. Light pontoons guarded by a sentry and six soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets were on the bank 300 meters east of the tent camp. (2)

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5. At 12:55 a.m. on 17 July, a train with 10 to 15 trucks, [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] arrived at the Wittenberg railroad station from the direction of Dessau.

25X1 On 18 July, a train of 10 cars with troops, 27 trucks, [redacted] and 8 25X1
artillery pieces was dispatched from Wittenberg toward Dessau. At 6 a.m. on 19 July,

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another train of 20 boxcars with 10 artillery pieces and about 20 trucks [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] left the Wittenberg railroad station
toward Dessau. (3)

6. On 30 June, engineer troops started to assemble bridge building equipment to form a unit 300 meters long beside the Elbe River south of the Elb Tor. Preparations for this practice by 70 engineer troops lasted about 15 minutes and started at 10 a.m. Truck [redacted] loaded with planks went from the Brueckenkopf Kaserne to the training site. Eight pontoons, 1 assault boat, 50 life preservers, 2 pneumatic rafts and other engineer equipment were stored on the Elbe River bank. (2)

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7. At 6 p.m. on 17 July, a column of 13 trucks [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] passed through Piestowitz from Wittenberg. Twelve trucks 25X1
carried pontoons and bridge building equipment and each truck was occupied by between 6 to 10 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets armed with rifles or submachine guns. (4)

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Comments.

(1) The information indicates no changes in the occupation of the Arado installation, the Flak Kaserne and the Tauntzien Kaserne. [redacted] The bulk of the 6th Gds Tank Div is at the Worder-Markendorf troop training grounds. The rear details of the units stationed there, which also furnish guard details and, possibly, the tank training battalion of the 6th Gds Tank Div are believed to have been stationed in the barracks installations in Wittenberg during the period from 6 to 11 July 1952. Engineer units of the Third Gds Recz Army, which are assembled in Wittenberg for practices, probably also occupy the installations as is indicated to some extent by the 20 soldiers with black-bordered black epaulets who entered the Tauntzien Kaserne. 25X1

(2) The reports by the two sources in paragraphs 4 and 6, furnish more details concerning the engineer training sites and engineer practices of the engineer units assembled in Wittenberg until 11 July 1952.

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(3) [redacted] If source's observation of the guns were correct, these shipments may have been made for the engineer training areas in Dessau and Wittenberg or they possibly were only shipments in transit.

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